

**FINAL / Minutes of the Tree and Landscape Board
City Hall, City of College Park
April 15, 2015**

<u>Term Exp.</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
N/A	Brenda Alexander, Public Works Deputy Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A	Steven Beavers, Planning Dept. Representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11/30/2016	John Krouse, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12/31/2014	John Lea-Cox, City Forester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/30/2016	Joseph Smith, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10/31/2016	Mark Wimer, Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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N/A	Gemma Evans, CBE Liaison	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A	Janis Oppelt, CBE Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Also attended: Lee Sommer, College Park Airport Manager

Mr. Krouse called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Mr. Lee Sommer - PowerPoint Presentation

Following the PowerPoint presentation by Mr. Sommer, there was a discussion regarding tree pruning on M-NCPPC property related to College Park Airport and the need for further work. Mr. Sommer explained that the M-NCPPC has a requirement to mitigate obstructions around the airport; approaches to the airport must be a 20 to 1 ratio (for every 20 feet in distance, the plane goes up 1 foot) on a 3-degree angle approach to landing. He also stated that the maximum above ground level (AGL) altitude for buildings near the airport is 198 ft. The M-NCPPC will conduct a survey to determine which trees will be removed and which will be pruned or topped. If the topping will be severe, the trees will be removed and replaced 1 for 1 (or 3 for 1) with slow-growing, low height trees such as dogwoods, redbuds, etc. He pointed out an area where 30 trees died that had been severely topped; then about a year later, 10 more trees died due to stress from the severe topping and ash borer worms. He stated that no work will be done in the wetlands area and is now working with Mr. Jerry Langham, the MNCPPC Arborist, on a daily basis.

Dr. Lea-Cox referred to a letter, dated September 27, 2013 from Lee Schiek, the former College Park Airport Manager, in which Mr. Langham indicated that “the required tree work in the area was complete to remove tree growth encroachments in the flight path safety zone. According to Mr. Langham, 20 trees were selectively removed from this area and he did not know why the trees were topped instead of removed as indicated in the plan outlined to the Airport Authority. He agreed to conduct a survey in 2014 to see if the trees were dying or unsafe due to the harsh pruning and would have them replaced in fall 2014; about 60 trees would be replaced for the 20 that had been removed” (paraphrased). Mr. Krouse suggested that the felled trees be replaced with 200 small or medium-sized trees per acre for adequate forest coverage. Dr. Lea-Cox also

suggested that the TLB submit a list of diverse, slow-growing trees for the M-NCPPC to choose from and implement a long-term plan of wetlands species replacement trees.

The tree work will begin on May 1, 2015 in the area where there is currently a safety issue for the airport. It was suggested that larger species trees that are too close to the runway be removed. Mr. Sommer is willing to periodically attend a TLB meeting to inform members of plans and progress.

2. Proclamation and Program for Arbor Day

The 25th Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Friday, May 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the 7300 block of Rhode Island Avenue. It was suggested that additional revisions to the wording for the Arbor Day Proclamation in recognition of Amelia Murdoch include more emphasis on her involvement in the Veterans Memorial Committee.

The Proclamation was unanimously approved, with minor adjustments by Ms. Alexander.

3. Public Works Activities

- The landscape crews are still working on spring cleanups throughout the city; specifically, Youth and Family Services, the Old Parish House, the Rt. 1 median, Calvert Road, and some of the smaller islands throughout the city.
- Contract grass mowing began last week in the south end of the city; the Duvall and Calvert Roads School fields were mowed (the school fields are mowed weekly). Mowing is scheduled for next week in the section north of Rt. 193.
- Sports have started at Duvall, so the field has been striped twice for lacrosse.

4. Planning Activities

Mr. Beavers showed TLB members a mock-up of the plaque for Amelia Murdoch.

The plans for the community garden at Old Town Park (at the corner of Norwich Road and Columbia Avenue) will include the volleyball court. Mr. Beavers had multiple sketches of the proposed garden on hand and explained that the layout may change based on feedback from the Master Gardeners. The area would become a small neighborhood scale garden of approximately 50'x 80' consisting of 16 plots. Interested city residents would pay an annual fee of approximately \$15 for a 4'x 10' plot and would also receive compost and top soil. The plan includes a 3' walkway between plots. There is currently no water onsite but, depending on active interest after a year, water could be installed at a cost of approximately \$15,000. In addition, Mr. Beavers is currently getting estimates for an 8' chain link fence to be installed around the entire garden.

Motion: To approve the concept of the community garden using one-half of the volleyball court, with recommendations; i.e., reduce the spaces so that there are less alleyways and include trellis (or raised beds) for vining plants.

Moved: Mr. Wimer
Aye: Unanimous

Second: Ms. Oppelt
Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

5. CBE Activities and Plans

The winners for the Green Awards will be announced on College Park Day instead of the usual Earth Day. Ms. Oppelt is requesting nominations for the Green Awards.

A resident had a concern regarding a neighbor's complaint about her front yard fence which was installed to protect her vegetable garden; however, the City made her remove it due to their fence ordinance. The CBE will recommend to the City Council that the fence ordinance be revised for home vegetable gardens.

The CBE decided that Goal #3, Environmental Sustainability of the Strategic Plan, will be revised and submitted to the City Council. In addition, in regards to the CBE charge, CBE members will discuss the value of CBE as a voting member of the TLB.

6. City Charge of TLB and Potential Changes

The TLB decided that there were some major issues with the existing Charter; however, the TLB is incapable of coming up with language to adequately revise the existing charge in the expected 2-month time timeframe (June) to make changes.

Motion: The TLB feels that the current Charter is not the perfect representation of the TLB activity, but that 2 months is inadequate for a proper review, discussion, and interaction with the City to arrive at a better statement.

Moved: Mr. Wimer

Second: Dr. Lea-Cox

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

7. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion: The February 25, 2015 Tree and Landscape Board meeting minutes were approved, as amended.

Moved: Ms. Oppelt

Second: Mr. Wimer

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion: The March 25, 2015 Tree and Landscape Board meeting minutes were approved, as amended.

Moved: Mr. Wimer

Second: Dr. Lea-Cox

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

8. New Business

- Ms. Alexander will contact CBE when volunteers are needed to maintain the permaculture planting.
- Dr. Lea-Cox received a communication from Chris Shipley, a University of Maryland graduate student in Environmental Finance, who is looking for green canopy GIS information for his school project; the letter was forwarded to Ms. Alexander.
- The TLB approved of the edits made by Ms. Alexander on the informational flyer regarding Pepco tree pruning; it was recommended to send the flyer to Pepco for a final review before distribution to residents.

- The State of the Trees will be discussed at the May TLB meeting.
- Dr. Lea-Cox will be on sabbatical until December 2015; we wish him safe travels.

9. Adjournment

The TLB meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next TLB meeting is scheduled for May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Debra Pinkett, Contract Secretary for the City of College Park